

REMARKS

Claims 39, 40 and 43-53 are pending in this application, of which claim 39 has been amended. Claims 1-38 and 41-42 have been canceled. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has requested a new, more descriptive title. Accordingly, the title has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 39-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Accordingly, claim 39 has been amended to correct the noted instance of indefiniteness.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 39, 43-36 and 51-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,246,552 to Soeno et al. (hereafter "Soeno et al.").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Soeno et al. discloses an actuator with a pair of movable arms for catching a head slider with adhesive.

Soeno et al. fails to disclose at least the following two features of the manufacturing process of the instant application, namely, (1) a spacing between the movable arms being slightly less than a width of the head slider; and (2) a catching step that includes provisionally fixing the head slider between the movable arms by a pinching force of the movable arms, and then securely fixing the head slider to the movable arms by curing an adhesive after the provisional fixing.

Accordingly, claim 39 has been amended to recite this distinction.

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Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Soeno et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,351,354 to Bonin (hereafter “Bonin”).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Bonin has been cited for teaching an actuation system having an actuator (40) and a slider (24) and fixing between the actuator and the slider with an adhesive such as epoxy in order to fix the slider to the actuator as shown in FIG. 4.

Neither of the cited references teaches, mentions or suggests the features of claim 39, as amended, from which these claims depend.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 47-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Soeno et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,457,075 to Fukushima et al. (hereafter “Fukushima et al.”).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Fukushima et al. discloses a sintered ceramic composite comprising 35 to 80 wt. % of aluminum nitride, 2 to 60 wt. % of boron nitride, 0.1 to 25 wt. % of an oxide of magnesium, 0.5 to 20 wt. % of at least one of rare earth oxides including yttrium oxide as an optional component and 25 wt. % or less of aluminum oxide as an optional component.

Fukushima et al., like the other cited references, fails to teach the limitation recited in claim 39, as amended, from which these claims depend.

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In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 39 and 43-53, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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